IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An electric bending endoscope comprising:

a bending portion arranged to an inserting portion;

a first unit which has a frame unit and which holds a motor that generates driving force for bending the bending portion; and

a buffering member to connect a main frame to which is connected ~~which connects to the unit at least one of~~ the inserting portion and the frame unit, ~~an operating portion for operating the electric bending endoscope and a connecting cord that is connected to a control device to controlling the electric bending endoscope,~~ the buffering member absorbing external force applied to ~~at least one of~~ the inserting portion~~, the operating portion and the connecting cord~~.

2-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 1, further comprising an operating portion connected to the first unit for operating the electric bending endoscope,

wherein, in an ~~operation~~ operating lever arranged to the operating portion ~~for operating the bending driving unit~~, an angle is formed between the center axis of the inserting portion in the electric bending endoscope and the center axis of the ~~operation~~ operating lever at the neutral position thereof, and the angle is in a range of about 120° to 150°,

an inclined angle of the ~~operation~~ operating lever is ± 30° from the center of the ~~operation~~ operating lever, and

the inclined center position of the ~~operation~~ operating lever is arranged in front of the operating portion, with respect to the center ~~position~~ axis of the inserting portion in the electric bending endoscope.

9. (Original) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 8, wherein the operation lever is arranged such that an angle is formed between the center axis of the operation lever at the neutral position thereof and the operating directions of an operating switch including at least an air and water supply button and a suction button, and the angle is 30° or more.

10-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 8 [[1]], wherein the operating portion is provided with a switch for operating the electric bending endoscope.

16. (Previously Presented) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 15, wherein the unit comprises an inner frame for holding the motor and an outer frame for holding the inner frame.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) An electric bending endoscope comprising:

a bending portion arranged to an inserting portion;

a first unit which has a frame unit which holds a motor that generates driving force for bending the bending portion;

a second unit which is separable from the first unit and which has a transmitting member for transmitting the driving force of the motor to the bending portion, the second unit having a main frame to which is connected the inserting portion; and

a buffering member to connect the main frame and the frame unit, the buffering member absorbing external force applied to the inserting portion ~~which absorbs external force applied to at least one of the inserting portion, an operating portion for operating the electric bending endoscope and a connecting cord that is connected to a control device for controlling the electric bending endoscope; and~~

~~a second unit which can be separated from the first unit and has a driving force transmitting member for transmitting the driving force of the motor to the bending portion~~.

19. (Previously Presented) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 18, wherein the first unit comprises an inner frame for holding the motor and an outer frame for holding the inner frame.

20. (Previously Presented) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 19, further comprising:

a fixing member which fixes the inner frame of the first unit and a main frame arranged to the second unit.

21. (Currently Amended) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 20, wherein the [[inner]] frame unit by the fixing member and the main frame of the second unit are fixed by using ~~the fixing member with~~ a positioning tool for positioning ~~which positions the inner frame and the main frame in the second unit~~ in a three-axial direction.

22. (Currently Amended) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 18, further comprising an operating portion connected to the first unit for operating the electric bending endoscope,

wherein a wheel is arranged to ~~a driving shaft of~~ the driving force transmitting member of the second unit, and a rotating shaft of the wheel is arranged in front of the operating portion on a side cross-section of the operating portion in the electric bending endoscope, with respect to a central axis of the inserting portion.

23. (Currently Amended) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 18, further comprising an ~~operation lever arranged to the~~ operating portion connected to the first unit for operating the electric bending endoscope ~~driving unit~~,

wherein, in an operation lever arranged to the operating portion, an angle is formed between a center axis of the inserting portion in the electric bending endoscope and the center axis of the operation lever at the neutral position thereof, and the angle is in a range of about 120° to 150°,

an inclined angle of the operating ~~operation~~ lever is ±30° from the center of the ~~operation~~ operating lever, and

the inclined center position of the operation lever is arranged in front of the operating portion, with respect to the center axis of the inserting portion in the electric bending endoscope.

24. (Currently Amended) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 23, wherein the operation lever is arranged such that an angle is formed between the center axis of the operation lever at the neutral position thereof and the operating direction of an

operating switch including at least an air and water supply button and a suction button, and the angle is 30° or more.